

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.	:	N/A	Confirmation No.	:	N/A
Applicant	:	Wolfgang Held et al			
Filed	:	March 2, 2004			
TC/A.U.	:	N/A			
Examiner	:	N/A			
Docket No.	:	028987.53209US			
Customer No.	:	23911			
Title	:	EXHAUST LINE OF AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE WITH CONTROLLABLE EXHAUST FLAPS			

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

**Mail Stop Patent Application**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**March 2, 2004**

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

**STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE**

The relevance of the reference AA to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

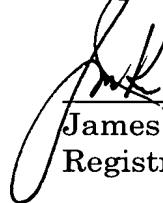
Serial No. N/A  
IDS Dated: February 27, 2004  
New Application  
Attorney Docket No. 028987.53208US

English abstracts summarizing the publications listed as AB, AC and AD are submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



---

James F. McKeown  
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING, LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
JFM:kms

305371

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<b><i>Complete if Known</i></b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	N/A
				Filing Date	March 2, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Wolfgang HELD et al
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	N/A
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	
028987.53209US					

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> —Number <sup>4</sup> —Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	AA	DE 42 12 215 A1	04/09/1992	Frank Rieland		
	AB	DE 28 35 079 A1	10/14/1988	Whau Chih et al		
	AC	DE 44 16 739 C2	05/12/1994	Alpha Technik GmbH		
	AD	DE 199 44 539 A1	07/17/1999	DaimlerChrysler AG		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.